

IN SENATE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 6, 1818.

The Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, have considered the petition of Joshua Swain and others, inhabitants of the county of Cape May, in the state of New Jersey, which was referred to them by the Senate, and they submit the following

**REPORT:**

The petitioners solicit the establishment of a new collection district in the southeastern part of New Jersey. They state, as the principal reasons of their application, that the distance from the extreme part of Cape May county to the nearest collector, is on the sea coast, thirty-five miles, and on the shore of the Delaware bay, fifty-six miles; and that more than forty vessels of different burdens, from thirty to one hundred and sixty tons belong to the county of Cape May.

The committee have obtained from the Treasury, an official statement of the revenue collected in the district in which Cape May is situated, from the year 1791, to the year 1816, including both those years. From this statement, it appears that no foreign goods paying duties, were imported into the district during thirteen of the twenty-seven years embraced by the statement; and that the importations of the other years of that period were not considerable.

Upon all the facts and circumstances, the committee are of opinion:

1. That it is not necessary to the collection or security of the revenue, that the district proposed should be established.

2. That the distance of some of the owners and navigators of the vessels of Cape May county, from the office of the collector of the district now comprehending that county, is not a sufficient reason for establishing a new district. In many other collection districts, the distance from the place of residence of the owner or master, to the office of the collector is much greater than in this instance.

3. By a late law the collectors are authorized to appoint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, as many deputy collectors as the circumstances of their respective districts may render necessary. If any serious or peculiar inconvenience is sustained by the petitioners from the necessity of a personal attendance at the office of the collector to obtain coasting licenses, clearances, or other papers, that inconvenience may be removed by the appointment of a deputy collector at some proper place in the district.

The committee accordingly recommend a resolution, that it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petition.